

Claims:

The following claims are provided herein for the Examiner's convenience only (in the unlikely event that any differences exist between the claims presented herein and the pending claims, the pending claims will remain):

1. (Original) A detergent free dry cleaning medium based on liquid CO₂ and including from 0.01 to 5% by weight of the cleaning medium of a cleaning additive which is at least one multi-ester having a molecular weight of not more than 750.

2. (Original) A dry cleaning formulation as claimed in claim 1 wherein the multi-ester includes at least one compound of the formula (1) :



where

X is -C(O)O- or -OC(O)-; such that

where X is -C(O)O-,

R¹ is a direct bond or the residue of a C₁ to C₁₀ hydrocarbyl group from which n hydrogen atoms have been removed; and

R² is a C₁ to C₁₀ hydrocarbyl group; and

where X is -OC(O)-,

R¹ is or the residue of C₂ to C₁₀ hydrocarbyl group from which n hydrogen atoms have been removed; and

R² is H or a C₁ to C₁₀ hydrocarbyl group; and

n is from 2 to 5;

the compound having a molecular weight of not more than 750.

3. (Previously presented) A dry cleaning formulation as claimed in claim 2 wherein the multi-ester is of the formula (Ia):



where

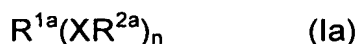
X is -C(O)O-;

R^{1a} is a direct bond or the residue of a C₁ to C₁₀ hydrocarbyl group from which n hydrogen atoms have been removed; and

R^{2a} is a C₁ to C₁₀ hydrocarbyl group.

4. (Original) A dry cleaning formulation as claimed in claim 3 wherein the multi-ester is a dimethyl ester of adipic, glutaric or succinic acids or a mixture of such esters.
5. (Previously presented) A dry cleaning formulation as claimed in claim 1 wherein the average molecular weight of the multi-ester(s) is from 150 to 300.
6. (Previously presented) A dry cleaning formulation as claimed in claim 1 wherein the average ratio of oxygen atoms to carbon atoms in the multi-ester (s) is from 1: 1 to 1: 5.
7. (Original) A dry cleaning formulation as claimed in claim 6 wherein the average ratio of oxygen atoms to carbon atoms in the multi-ester(s) is from 1: 1 to 1: 1.5.
8. (Previously presented) A dry cleaning formulation as claimed in claim 1 wherein the amount of cleaning additive multi-ester present in the cleaning medium is from 0.1 to 0.5% by weight of the cleaning medium.
9. (Previously presented) A dry cleaning formulation as claimed in claim 1 which additionally includes at least one fragrance, optical brightener, fabric conditioner, enzyme and/or bleach.
10. (Original) A method of dry cleaning which includes contacting textile material with a detergent free dry cleaning medium based on liquid CO₂ and including from 0.01 to 5% by weight of the cleaning medium of a cleaning additive which is at least one multi-ester having a molecular weight of not more than 750.
11. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the multi-ester includes at least one compound of the formula (I): $R^1(XR^2)_n$ where X, R¹, R² and n are as defined in claim 2, the compound having a molecular weight of not more than 750.

12. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the multi-ester is of the formula (Ia):



where

X is -C(O)-;

R^{1a} is a direct bond or a C_1 to C_{10} hydrocarbyl group from which n hydrogen atoms have been removed; and

R^{2a} is a C_1 to C_{10} hydrocarbyl group.

13. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the multi-ester is a dimethyl ester of adipic, glutaric or succinic acids or a mixture of such esters.

14. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the average molecular weight of the multi-ester(s) is from 150 to 300.

15. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the average ratio of oxygen atoms to carbon atoms in the multi-ester (s) is from 1: 1 to 1: 1.5.

16. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the amount of cleaning additive multi-ester present in the cleaning medium is from 0.1 to 0.5% by weight of the cleaning medium.

17. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 10 which additionally includes at least one fragrance, optical brightener, fabric conditioner, enzyme and/or bleach.

18. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the multi-ester is pre-mixed with liquid CO_2 before contacting the textiles.

19. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the cleaning process is carried out at a temperature of from -5 to 25°C.

20. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 19 wherein the temperature is from 5 to 20°C.

21. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein the temperature is from 12 to 15°C.